



Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman (MEW) Superfund Study Area

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • September 2009

Update: EPA's Proposed Plan for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (EPA) has extended the public comment period of EPA's July 2009 Proposed Plan to address the potential vapor intrusion pathway at the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman Superfund Study Area (MEW Site) in Mountain View and Moffett Field, California.

Introduction

EPA's Proposed Plan for the vapor intrusion pathway provides the MEW Site background, explains the alternatives considered for addressing the vapor intrusion pathway and identifies and explains the reasons for EPA's Preferred Alternatives.

The proposed response actions will address the potential health risks associated with long-term exposure to trichloroethene (TCE) and other MEW Site chemicals of concern through the vapor intrusion pathway into current and future buildings overlying the shallow groundwater contamination at the MEW Site Vapor Intrusion Study Area (see Figure 1 on page 2). The vapor intrusion pathway is the means by which site contamination in the subsurface may migrate upwards into overlying buildings and may impact indoor air quality (see Figure 2 on page 3).

120-day Public Comment Period

EPA will accept written comments on EPA's Proposed Plan during a 90-day public comment period from **July 10 through November 7, 2009**. Written comments can be provided by letter, fax, or email (see EPA contact information below). Letters must be postmarked by November 7, 2009.

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**New:
Public Comment
Period Extended**

EPA's Proposed Plan and updates are posted on EPA's website:
www.epa.gov/region09/MEW

The Proposed Plan summarizes information that can be found in greater detail in the *Final Supplemental Remedial Investigation* and the *Final Supplemental Feasibility Study for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway for the MEW Study Area, Mountain View and Moffett Field, California*, dated June 2009 (Supplemental RI and FS), and other documents contained in the MEW Site Administrative Record Supplement for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway. EPA encourages the public to review these Site documents to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the MEW Site. The Proposed Plan, Supplemental RI and FS, and Administrative Record Supplement Index are posted on EPA's website: **www.epa.gov/region09/MEW**.

Other Administrative Record documents are available for public review at the EPA Superfund Records Center listed on page 3.

EPA's Preferred Alternatives

EPA has determined that the Preferred Alternatives identified in the Proposed Plan are necessary to protect public health from MEW Site contamination migrating via the subsurface vapor intrusion pathway into overlying buildings. To determine the appropriate action necessary at existing and future commercial and residential buildings, EPA has developed a tiered approach based on indoor air concentrations of TCE and other Site-specific considerations.

EPA's Preferred Alternative to address the vapor intrusion pathway depends upon where the building is within the overlying TCE shallow groundwater contamination (vapor

intrusion study area), whether it is a residential or commercial building, what the indoor sampling results are, and whether any actions have already been implemented to reduce indoor air concentrations.

EPA's Potential Changes to Preferred Alternatives

As EPA has been soliciting public comments on the Proposed Plan since July 2009, we have received information that has prompted EPA to take another look at how the Preferred Alternatives are structured. Changes being considered from the Preferred Alternatives described in EPA's July 2009 Proposed Plan are: (1) allowing for a broader selection of

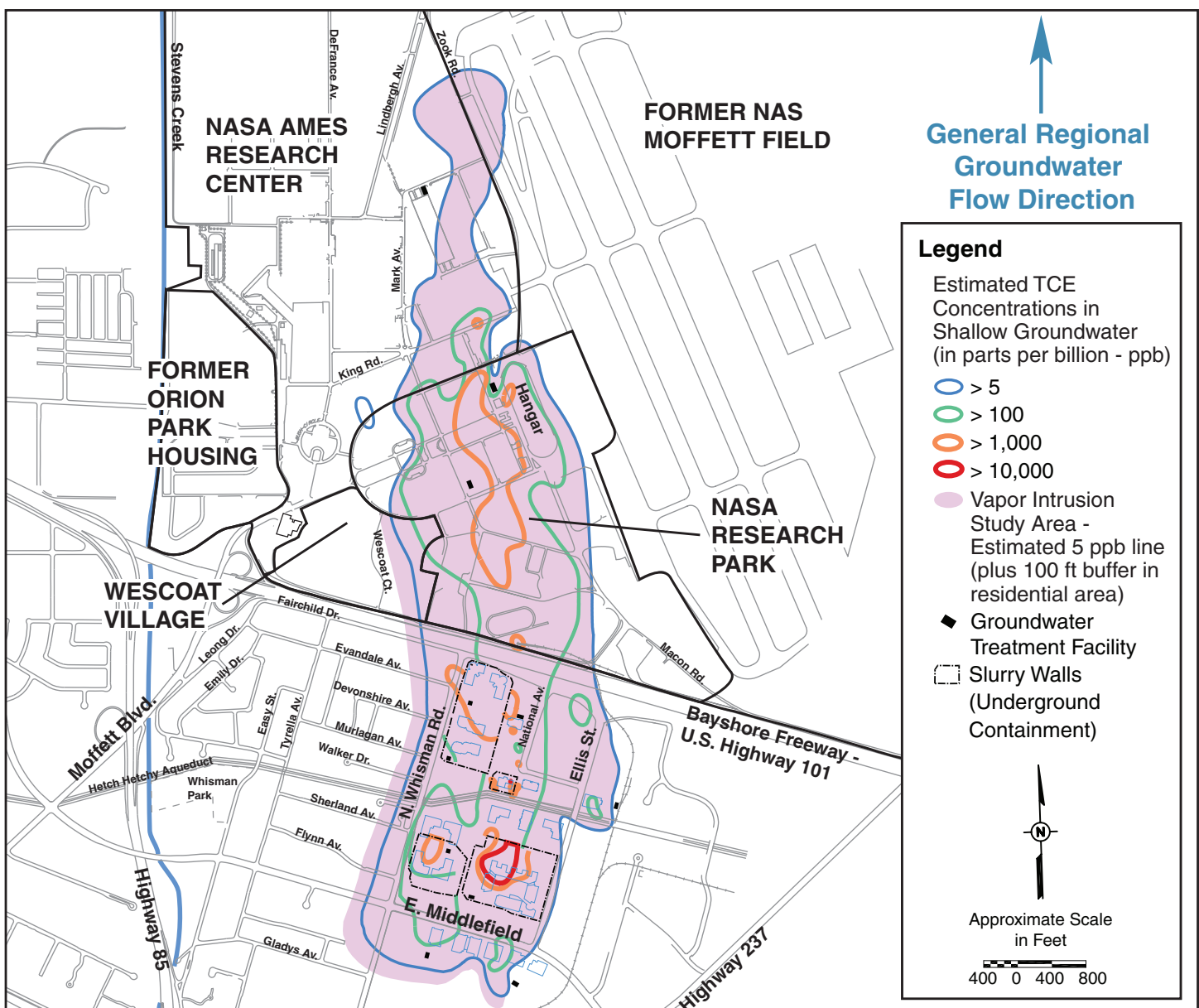


Figure 1: Estimated TCE Concentrations in Shallow Groundwater and Vapor Intrusion Study Area

sub-slab ventilation system options for existing and future commercial buildings, and (2) changing EPA's Preferred Alternative for existing commercial buildings to installation of the appropriate sub-slab ventilation system, unless use of the building's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system meets the remedial objectives and is implementable on a long-term, ongoing basis.

To support each of the engineering controls, EPA's preferred Institutional Control, is a municipal ordinance that requires implementation of the appropriate vapor intrusion remedy at existing commercial buildings and all future buildings within the MEW vapor intrusion study area south of U.S. Highway 101.

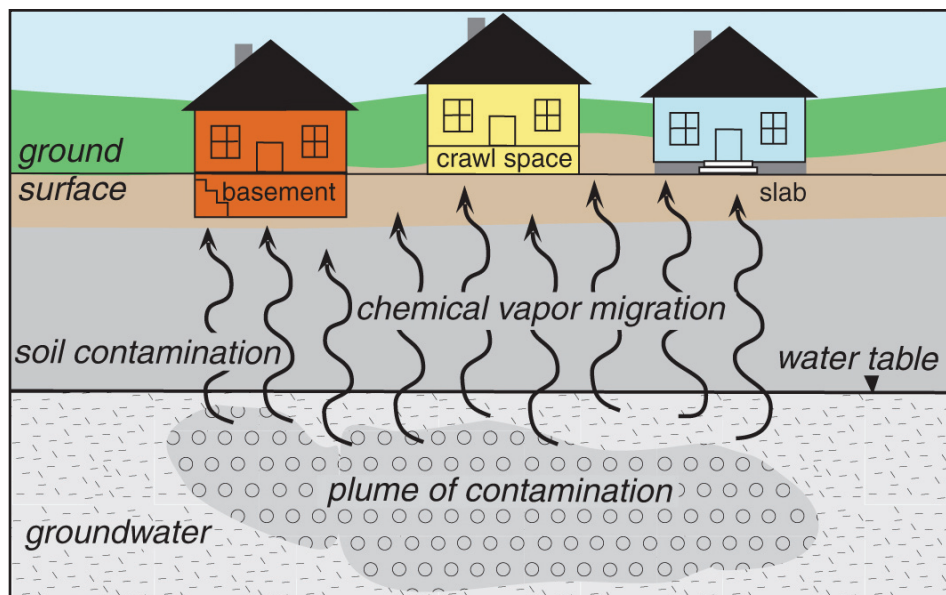


Figure 2: Schematic of vapor intrusion pathway

Community Involvement and Participation

Consideration of public input is an important part of EPA's remedy selection process. EPA encourages all community members and other interested stakeholders to review the Proposed Plan and provide input to EPA. Your input can influence EPA's decision.

EPA may modify the Preferred Alternatives or select another response action based on new information or public comments. Therefore, the public is encouraged to review all of the alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan. EPA will review and consider all comments received before it makes a final decision on the vapor intrusion remedy.

EPA will provide responses to the comments received on the Proposed Plan, which will be documented in a Responsiveness Summary. EPA will document the selected vapor intrusion remedy to be implemented at the MEW Site in an Amendment to EPA's 1989 Record of Decision (referred to as a ROD Amendment).

Information Repository

MEW Site-related documents are available at the EPA Superfund Records Center below.

EPA Region 9 Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415-536-2000

Hours:

Monday – Friday,
8 am – 5 pm

The Proposed Plan, Supplemental Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway can also be obtained at: www.epa.gov/region09/MEW



Update: EPA's Proposed Plan for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway

— *Public comment period extended through November 7, 2009* —

For More Information

You may download a copy of EPA's Proposed Plan for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway at: www.epa.gov/region09/MEW. If you have any questions about the MEW Superfund Study Area or EPA's Proposed Plan, please contact:

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Or You May leave a message on EPA's Toll-free line at **1.800.231.3075**



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